

## REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 23-37 are pending in the action, with claims 1 and 23 being independent.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 23-25 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Pub. No. 2004/0019816 to **Smith**.

Claims 4 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Smith** in view of USP No. 5,732,249 to **Masuda**.

Claims 7 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Smith** in view of USP No. 5,355,468 to **McDaniel**.

Claims 8-10 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Smith** in view of USP No. 5,355,468 to **Jeppesen**.

Claims 11-15 and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Smith** in view of USP No. 5,964,856 to **Wu**.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested in light of the following comments and remarks.

### Section 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 23-25 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Smith. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

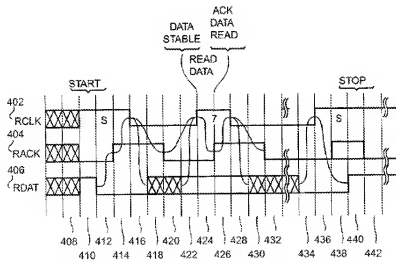
Claim 1 recites in part a driver to drive and maintain a voltage of the clock bus while the clock transmitter is not transmitting a clock signal on the clock bus and the clock receiver is not receiving a clock signal on the clock bus.

In the statement of rejection, the Examiner asserts that Smith provides a driver at paragraph [0021]. See page 2, item 3, lines 6-9 of Office Action. This paragraph reads

[0021] The RCLK line 208 of circuit 202 is connected to a voltage source 210 through a current limiting resistor 212. The master 214 is connected to the RCLK line 208 through an amplifier 216 and a pull down transistor 218. The slave 220 is connected to the RCLK line 208 through an amplifier 222 only. In the normal idle state, RCLK 208 is high and can be pulled low only by the master 214. The slave 220 may only monitor RCLK 208 through the amplifier 222.

Applicant respectfully submits that the relied on portion of Smith does not teach or suggest maintaining a voltage of a clock bus while a clock transmitter is not transmitting a clock signal on the clock bus. At the cited section, Smith provides a clock line 208. The clock line 208 is controlled by the master 214. *See* [0007]. In an idle state, the clock line 208 is kept HIGH. *See* [0021]. The clock line 208 is pulled LOW after the master 214 has received an acknowledgement that all of the slaves have received and acknowledged a send command used to initiate a data send sequence. *See* [0034] and [0036]. The device (e.g., the master or any one of the slaves) initiating the send command then may begin transmitting data to other connected devices. *See* [0037].

The Examiner asserts that Smith's master 214 provides a clock signal on the clock line RCLK. *See* page 2, item 3, lines 2-3 of Office Action. Applicant, however, submits that the relied upon portion of Smith provides no teaching or suggestion that the master 214 does not transmit a clock signal. Nor does Smith provide any teaching or suggestion that the slaves do not receive a clock signal on the clock line RCLK. Applicant submits that the clock signal on the clock line RCLK is continuously transmitted by Smith's master 214 for aiding the data sending process.



As shown in the figure above, Smith's clock signal is continuously transmitted on Smith's clock line RCLK (e.g., either as logic "1" or as logic "0") throughout the data handshake

process. For example, during the idle state (at time slot 410), Smith's master 214 transmits a HIGH clock signal on the clock line RCLK to ensure that the data line RDAT 406 does not change to LOW before a send command is initiated (which occurs at time slot 412). *See* [0033] and [0041]. After the send command is initiated, the master 241 pulls the clock signal to LOW to indicate that the data line RDAT 406 is ready for data transmission. *See* [0036]. Applicant respectfully submits that there is simply no indication in the relied upon portions of Smith that the master 214 does not transmit a clock signal on the clock line RCLK (e.g., during any of the time slots 408-442).

The fact that Smith's master continuously transmits a clock signal on the clock line RCLK is further demonstrated by the fact that the slaves depend on the clock signal to determine whether the device transmitting the data should release the data line RDAT 406, which indicates that the data transmission is complete (*see e.g.*, time slots 434-440). *See* [0042]. Because the relied upon portion of Smith does not provide any teaching or suggestion that Smith's clock signal on the clock line RCLK need not be transmitted by the clock transmitter 214, Smith also does not teach or suggest a driver that drives and maintains a voltage of the clock bus while the clock transmitter is not transmitting a clock signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Smith does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from claim 1, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1.

### **Claim 23**

Claim 23 recites in part a voltage driving means for driving and maintaining a voltage of the clock bus to a first voltage level while the clock signal transmission means **is not transmitting a clock signal on the clock bus** and the clock signal receiving means is not receiving a clock signal on the clock bus.

As discussed above, Smith does not teach or suggest at least this feature. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Smith also does not anticipate claim 23. Claims 24-25 and 27-28 depend from claim 23, and also are submitted to be allowable for at

least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 23.

### **Section 103(a) Rejections**

Claims 4 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Masuda.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and also is submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 26 depends from claim 23, and also is submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 23.

### **Section 103(a) Rejections**

Claims 7 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of McDaniel.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1, and also is submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 29 depends from claim 23, and also is submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 23.

### **Section 103(a) Rejections**

Claims 8-10 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Jeppesen.

Claims 8-10 depend from claim 1, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 30-32 depend from claim 23, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 23.

### **Section 103(a) Rejections**

Claims 11-15 and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being

unpatentable over Smith in view of Wu.

Claims 11-15 depend from claim 1, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 33-37 depend from claim 23, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 23.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed over the prior art of record.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Examiner, Applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 06-1050 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 4, 2008

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